

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 12 October 2016

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Members: M Downing (Chair), M Hurst (Vice-Chair),
J Brown and P Stuart.

In Attendance:

Start/End Time: Start Time: 6:00 pm

End Time: 6.50 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bainbridge, R Broom, L Chester, E Harrington, J Fraser and A McGuinness

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair informed the meeting that a supplementary agenda regarding item 2 – Briefing on the provision of Public Toilets had been tabled for Members to consider.

2. BRIEFING ON THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS

The (Acting) Head of Property and Estates Services updated Members on the current provision of accessible public toilets across Stevenage, including the town centre and neighbourhood centres and retail parks.

Members were informed of the 3 categories of public toilets, those that were fully accessible to the public at all times, those that had limited access such as the Leisure centres, cafes and restaurants and those with restricted access for specific users who have paid to attend an event, for example football matches.

The Officer advised Members that although there was no legal requirement to provide public toilets, local authorities would still want to take a lead and therefore would need to determine the most effective way of providing these facilities. The meeting was informed that beyond the current regime, two options, the Community Toilet Scheme which allows local businesses to work with the Council to provide clean and safe accessible toilets for residents and visitors to the town and secondly toilet kiosks were being considered.

In response to a question, the Officer reiterated the benefits with each of the two options, however he advised that there were issues such as the

locations for kiosk toilets, potential anti-social behaviour and resource implications.

Members noted that it was difficult to access information regarding toilet provision in the town and that details of opening times on the Council website would need to be updated.

The Committee acknowledged that the current provision in the town centre was sufficient, although there might be a need to consider improving the signage. However, members were concerned about the lack of public toilets in Fairlands Valley Park considering the extent of its use especially during the summer months and requested that Officers consider ways of improving the current provision with Stevenage Leisure Limited.

The Strategic Director (Environment) informed Members that Officers would explore the options considered at the meeting and in Councillor McGuinness's written submission. They would also consider a site visit to East Herts to look at how that authority provides its Community Toilet Scheme and report back to the Committee by February 2017. He also indicated that Officers would look to improve the information on public toilets on the Council's website.

It was **RESOLVED** that the briefing is noted

3. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None.

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

5. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR